

CLAIMS

1. A foldable bench comprising:
 - a. at least two seat sections wherein the seat sections are movable between an extended position and a folded position;
 - b. at least two legs that are mounted to the bench and movable between a foldable position and an extended position;
 - c. a pair of first connectors associated with the bench and wherein when the seat sections assume the extended position the first connectors connect to the legs;
 - d. wherein when the bench supports a load, the first connectors connected to the legs are in compression;
 - e. a second connector for connecting the two legs when the two legs assume an extended position; and
 - f. wherein when the bench supports a load and the second connector is connected between the two legs, the second connector is in tension.
2. The foldable bench of claim 1 wherein the second connector is a cable.
3. The foldable bench of claim 2 wherein the first connectors extend generally diagonally with respect to the seat sections when the seat sections assume the extended position.
4. The foldable bench of claim 1 wherein when the seat sections assume the extended position and the foldable bench assumes an unfolded position, each first connector extends from a position underneath an intermediate area of the bench outwardly and downwardly to where an end portion of the connector connects to a respective leg.

5. The foldable bench of claim 4 wherein the second connector comprises a cable that when the legs are extended and the bench assumes an unfolded position, the cable extends between the legs.

6. The foldable bench of claim 1 wherein each leg forms a part of a leg assembly and wherein each leg assembly is foldably mounted to an underside of each seat section about an outer end portion of the seat section.

7. The foldable bench of claim 6 wherein each leg assembly is pivotally mounted to a respective seat section and wherein when the bench assumes a folded position, the leg assemblies assume a folded position adjacent a respective seat section and wherein the two leg assemblies are disposed in back-to-back relationship to each other.

8. The foldable bench of claim 1 wherein there is provided a hinge for pivotally connecting the two seat sections together.

9. The foldable bench of claim 8 wherein each of the first connectors extends from the hinge.

10. The foldable bench of claim 8 wherein each first connector includes an end portion that is connected to the hinge and wherein each connector, when the bench assumes the unfolded or erect position, extends generally outwardly and downwardly from the hinge to where an outer end portion of the connector connects to a respective leg.

11. A foldable bench movable between a folded position and an erect position, comprising: a pair of seat sections wherein the seat sections are movable between a folded position and an extended position; a pair of foldable legs, each leg adapted to extend from one seat section and movable from a folded position to an erect position; wherein when the bench assumes the erect position, the legs assume the extended position but are inclined at least slightly

inwardly such that each leg extends downwardly and inwardly from a respective seat section; a strut interconnected between each leg and a point associated with the foldable bench such that when the foldable bench is in the erect position, each strut is held in compression when the bench supports a load; and an interconnecting member interconnected between the two legs such that when the bench is in the erect position the interconnecting member is held in tension.

12. The foldable bench of claim 11 wherein there is provided a hinge for connecting the two sections together and wherein each strut is connected to the hinge and when the foldable bench assumes the erect position, each strut projects from the hinge towards one leg.

13. The foldable bench of claim 11 wherein when the foldable bench assumes the folded position the two seat section extends generally parallel and the two legs assume the folded position and lie back to back such that the two legs are generally sandwiched between the two seat sections.

14. The foldable bench of claim 11 wherein the interconnecting member held in tension is a cable.

15. The foldable bench of claim 11 wherein each leg forms a part of a leg assembly wherein each leg assembly includes a pair of legs and a transverse member interconnected between the legs.

16. A method of unfolding and erecting a foldable bench having at least two seat sections, comprising:

- a. moving the seat sections from a folded position to an unfolded position;
- b. moving a pair of legs from a folded position to an unfolded position;

- c. stationing the legs in an unfolded position by connecting a strut to each leg and extending the strut to a point such that the strut extends between the leg and the point; and
- d. in response to a load being placed on the bench, the struts are in compression.

17. The method of claim 16 including interconnecting the legs with an interconnecting member and maintaining the interconnecting member in tension when the bench carries a load.

18. The method of claim 16 wherein the legs are maintained in a position where they extend at least slightly inwardly when the bench assumes the unfolded position.

19. The method of claim 16 including pivotally connecting the two seat sections together with a hinge and connecting at least one end of each strut with the hinge when the bench assumes the unfolded position.

20. The method of claim 16 including returning the bench to a folded position by folding the legs to a position adjacent the seat sections and folding the seat sections together such that the legs are sandwiched between the seat sections.